

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06

OES-06 TRSE-00 /052 W

----- 006813

R 051035Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6513

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS JIDDA 7841

BRUSSELS FOR MARITIME ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SA

SUBJECT: JIDDA PORT SITREP

1. PILGRIMAGE SEASON IS AT ITS HEIGHT WITH SURPRISINGLY LITTLE EFFECT ON THE OPERATIONS OF JIDDA PORT. IN FACT, THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VESSELS WAITING TO OFFLOAD AS WELL AS THE LENGTH OF THEIR WAIT. RECENT SUCCESS AT JIDDA PORT IS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO EFFORTS OF NEW SAUDI SEAPORTS DIRECTOR, DR. FAIZ BADR, AND INCREASED EFFICIENCY OF LST, HELICOPTER, BARGE AND RO-RO OPERATIONS.

2. NUMBER OF VESSELS CURRENTLY IN JIDDA HARBOR WAITING FOR BERTHING TOTALS 94. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN 14 MONTHS THAT THE TOTAL HAS DIPPED BELOW 100. OF THESE 94, 12 ARE CEMENT VESSELS CARRYING APPROXIMATELY 144,000 TONS

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CARGO DEADWEIGHT, 12 ARE SHIPS CARRYING 18,375 MOTOR VE-

HICLES AND 70 ARE GENERAL CARGO VESSELS CARRYING APPROXIMATELY 320,000 TONS DEADWEIGHT.

3. OF THE VESSELS IN THE HARBOR, THE LST OPERATION IS WORKING 10 (MOSTLY VEHICLES AND GENERAL CARGO), THE BARGE OPERATION 7 (GENERAL CARGO AND CEMENT), AND THE HELICOPTERS 4 (ALL CEMENT).

4. AVERAGE WAITING TIME IN HARBOR HAS DROPPED BELOW 120 DAYS AND THE VARIOUS SHIPPING CONFERENCES ARE DISCUSSING A LOWERING OF THE SURCHARGE WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS.

5. PILGRIM OFFLOADING PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND DEPARTURE OF PILGRIMS IS NOT EXPECTED TO PRESENT ANY DIFFICULTIES. ONE PILGRIM SHIP - SAUDI OWNED - WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE IN THE HARBOR, BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. LACK OF FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT FORCED THE SAUDIS TO RESIGN THEMSELVES TO THE LOSS OF THE SHIP.

6. DR. BADR HAS ORDERED ROUND-THE-CLOCK OFFLOADING TO PROCEED DURING THE PILGRIMAGE HOLIDAYS. THIS FOLLOWS A SIMILAR ORDER DURING RAMADAN WHICH WAS SCRUPULOUSLY ADHERED TO.

7. PROJECTIONS FOR SITUATION IN NEAR AND MEDIUM FUTURE ARE OPTIMISTIC. PROCEDURES AT JIDDA PORT ARE BEING INSTITUTIONALIZED BY BADR, AND HE IS NOT TOLERATING NON-COMPLIANCE. PORTER

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